

Great storytellers in their own words and the words of others - Christopher Lloyd



Christopher Lloyd

"This snappy history of our planet tells you something new on virtually every page. We learn that our forebears' descent from the trees and the brain development required to utilise their free hands explains the difference between us and the genetically all-but-identical chimpanzees. We discover that the reason for the eminently sensible abolition of the Olympic Games in 393 AD - they were seen as a relic of the pagan past. We're informed that the name of Greenland was a sales pitch by Erik the Red to attract settlers. Russia was another Viking invention- from a Norse term for "men who row ...". The Independent writing about *What on Earth Happened?*

"This engaging history of our planet is ambitious, but Christopher Lloyd pulls it off"

The Daily Telegraph

"This book should be on every child's Christmas List"

Bill Turnbull, BBC Breakfast

Who is Christopher Lloyd?

After graduating from Peterhouse, Cambridge in 1991 with a double first-class degree in History, Christopher Lloyd helped research the personal memoirs of the ex Sunday Telegraph Editor and journalist Sir Peregrine Worsthorne.

He then became a graduate trainee journalist on The Sunday Times newspaper and was trained at the City University where he gained their diploma in newspaper journalism.

After two years as a news reporter, Christopher Lloyd began a new column in The Sunday Times Review section called Answers and, in 1993, he was appointed The Sunday Times Innovation Editor, with his own three-page section of the paper. A year later he became Technology

Correspondent for The Sunday Times and won the 1994 Texaco award for Science Journalist of the Year.

After five years as a journalist Christopher Lloyd moved into the management of News International (publisher of The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun and News of the World.) and in 1996 he launched the first Internet edition of The Sunday Times and became its Internet editor.

In 1997 he co-founded LineOne, a joint venture Internet Service business owned by BT and News International and became its editorial director. In 1999 he returned full time to News International and proposed the development of a network of internet related businesses that would help transfer News

Corporation's offline newspaper assets onto the Internet.

His last appointment at News International was as a director with responsibility for setting up a database marketing division which created new revenues for the newspaper business through the creation of a single customer database.

In January 2001, Lloyd was recruited to become chief executive of an education software publishing house based in Oxford. He grew the company from its R&D phase with zero revenue to sales of in excess of 3 million pounds.

Then, in 2006 he left Immersive Education to spend time travelling around Europe with his wife and two children, both of whom are home-educated. The time spent on the road travelling around Europe inspired him to come up with the concept of *What on Earth Happened?*

Christopher Lloyd now divides his time between writing books and delivering interactive lectures / workshops to schools, societies, literary festivals and other organisations.

Further reviews of Christopher Lloyd's first book, *What on Earth Happened?* include:

"A charming book.... remarkably far-reaching and even-handed"

Ed King, *The Sunday Times*

"This book tells you something new on virtually every page ..."

The Independent

"The sort of book an enquiring mind will not want to put down..."

The School Librarian

Another Christopher Lloyd ...

The name Great Dixter may not mean a great deal to you. It is quite possible, however, that your parents and teachers have not only heard of this wonderful house and its magnificent gardens, they may well have visited, perhaps taking you with them.

Great Dixter as it is today is very much the creation of Christopher Lloyd - not the Christopher Lloyd who you will meet at Hurst but his uncle, who sadly died in 2006.

Like his nephew, the uncle was a superb author, most famously of a book called *The Well Tempered Garden*.

He was also a quite exceptional plantsman and, although originally designed by Lutyens, Great Dixter today is a tribute to Christopher Lloyd's creative genius as well as his lifetime of work in the House and Gardens he loved so much.

Christopher Lloyd

'In order to have a global perspective on the future, to combat issues such as climate change, biodiversity and population growth, we need this interconnected, global view of the past.'

Author Festival 15th June '10

Christopher Lloyd

Factfile

How old is the Universe?

What happened to the dinosaurs?



Are humans superior to other living things?

These are just some of the questions answered in Christopher Lloyd's unique volume, which covers 13.7 billion years in a single, sweeping narrative. Drawing on disciplines ranging from astrophysics to zoology, *What on Earth Happened?* presents the whole history of our planet, and shows how life, the universe and EVERYTHING are connected

Yes, imagine the whole history of the Earth - planet, life and people - all in one easy-to-read narrative!

Well, now you can sit back and enjoy the real history of the world with Christopher Lloyd's *What on Earth Happened? in Brief* *

What is the book about?

What on Earth Happened? is a narrative account of the entire history of our planet – from the Big Bang to the present day.

It is divided into four parts which cover:

- life before man
- stone age history
- ancient times
- modern history.

What on Earth Happened? in Brief is the shorter, and more accessible condensation - of *What on Earth Happened?*

What makes this book different from other world histories?



Other world histories are either about the history of humans, usually starting with earliest civilisations (c 6,000 years ago), or they are about natural history and geological evolution but not about man.

What on Earth Happened? in Brief is different because it weaves together the story of planet, life and people into a single interconnected story giving it a unique perspective on the past.

Why is this book so important?

Christopher Lloyd believes passionately that a fresh interpretation of the past is essential if humans are to be able to make the right decisions for planet, life and people in the future.

He argues that in order to develop a global perspective on the future - essential if we are to combat issues such as climate change, biodiversity and population growth - we need an interconnected, global view of the past.

If history continues to be understood as simply the story of people in the last few thousand years then decisions in the future will continue to be made only in what are perceived to be in the interests of people (even if in the long-term they are disastrous for all life, including people).

Who is the book aimed at?

What on Earth Happened? in Brief is written in an accessible way so that it can be enjoyed by all the family – from grandparents, to parents, single adults and children.

It is especially powerful if read out aloud. It is not designed as a “dip in and dip out” reference book, although it can be used in this way.

The book's fascination and power lie in the fact that it connects the story of our planet, its life and finally its people with a continuous and exciting narrative over time.

Ideally you should start at the beginning and read through to the end (but not in one session!).

Younger readers may want to share the reading, perhaps with parents or teachers taking it in turns to read a chapter out aloud at a time and then take a few minutes to discuss the themes covered in each chapter.

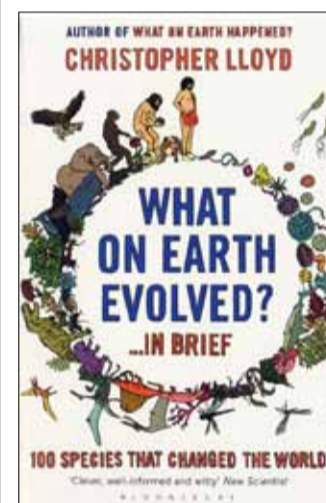
Evolution vs creationism?

What on Earth Happened? in Brief respects all views without shirking from the scientific and historical data on which all history must be based. Religious beliefs play a vital part in the unfolding story and are highly respected as key cultural indicators about what makes different human societies tick and how they have managed their essential relationships with nature. There is no agenda in the book either to undermine or support any one religion over another or to endorse or reject an atheistic point of view. For what it's worth, the experience of writing and researching the book has been, in the broadest possible sense, a spiritual awakening for the author as the connections between planet, life and people have revealed themselves as the narrative unfolded.

* The larger font and shorter text in the abridged paperback edition of this book - entitled *What on*

Earth Happened? in Brief make it more accessible for younger readers and so this edition - and its companion volume, *What on Earth Evolved? in Brief* - will be available for pupils to buy at **Hurst's Author Festival**.

If you like *What on Earth Happened? in Brief* then you'll like this



In *What on Earth Evolved*, you are invited to join Christopher Lloyd on an exhilarating journey, from the birth of life to the present day, as he seeks answers to these fundamental questions...

Why have creatures evolved as they are?

Which species are most successful?

Where do humans fit in?

Along the way, take in lively biographies of 50 of the most successful species that have evolved in the wild – from slime moulds and sea scorpions to dragonflies and dung beetles – followed by 50 species that have thrived as a result of man's interference – from dogs, cats and chickens to wheat, coffee and bananas.

The 100 species are finally ranked in order of their overall impact on the planet, life and people, revealing the ongoing struggle between the forces of nature and the mind of mankind, and our pivotal relationship with the Earth itself – past, present and future.

“Every kid deserves to have this book lying around their house”
About.com, February 2010

How would you describe yourself in three words?

"Never stops learning"

What did you like doing most when you were a child?

"Writing pop songs"

What book would you most like to have written?

"Saki - short stories or George Orwell's essays"

If you could travel in time, where would you go, and when?

"Athens, 450 BC"

Which historical person (or animal) would you most like to meet?

"Gandhi"

...and which would you least like to meet?

"Timur (commonly known as Tamerlane in the West - a 14th century conqueror of much of Western and Central Asia."

If you hadn't been a writer, what do you think you might have done?

"Played in a piano bar"

Where do you write?

"In a converted spare bedroom at home"

Who or what really makes you laugh?

"The Goodies"

What are you bad at but wish you were good at?

"Dancing"

What objects do you always carry with you?

"Pencil and paper"

What is the most important lesson that life has taught you?

"That history never really repeats itself"